

MARCH 11th, 1814.

Read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

## A Bill

*Authorising the secretary of state, during the continuance of the present war, to make an additional allowance to the owners and masters of vessels, for bringing back to the United States destitute and distressed American seamen.*

1       *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in congress assembled, That*  
3       *during the continuance of the present war the secretary of state*  
4       *be, and he is hereby authorised in addition to the sum of ten*  
5       *dollars at present allowed by law for returning destitute Ame-*  
6       *rican seamen to the United States, to allow such additional com-*  
7       *pensation as he may deem reasonable, to be paid out of the sum*  
8       *annually appropriated for the relief of destitute American seamen.*

1       *Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the secretary of state*  
2       *be, and he is hereby authorised to adjust and settle such claims*  
3       *as may have been exhibited at the department of state for re-*  
4       *turning destitute American seamen to the United States, and to*  
5       *allow in addition to the ten dollars at present allowed by law,*  
6       *such additional compensation as he may deem reasonable, and*  
7       *to pay the same out of the fund appropriated for the relief of*  
8       *destitute American seamen.*

1       *Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That this act shall continue*  
2       *and be in force during the continuance of the present war between*  
3       *the United States and Great Britain, and for one year thereafter.*